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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/423,944	02/22/2000	YASUO TAKAHASHI	52433/580	7344

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EXAMINER

TRAN, HIEN THI

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1764

DATE MAILED: 05/09/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/423,944

Applicant(s)

TAKAHASHI ET AL.

Examiner

Hien Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 February 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 1, 5, 7.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to because it is unclear as to whether the reference numeral "13" (Figs. 7a, b) is the same as to the reference numeral "13" (Fig. 8). It appears that each is pointed to a different element. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.
2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character "6" has been used to designate both the protrusions 6 (page 15, line 20) and foil 6 (page 1, line 29 and page 15, line 20). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.
3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description: "13" (Fig. 7a, b) and "13" (Fig. 8). A proposed drawing correction, corrected drawings, or amendment to the specification to add the reference sign(s) in the description, are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.
4. Figures 1, 2, 5(b) should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

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5. The drawings have not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the drawings to comply with CFR 1.84(p)(5), e.g. they should include the reference sign(s) mentioned in the specification and vice versa.

Specification

6. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

On page 5, line 19 apparently the Publication No. JP 9-119915 is not related to the method as described herein.

On page 13, line 11 it is unclear as to what "b" and "V" stand for.

On page 19, the exhaust gas flowing face 3 is not in Fig. 10.

Appropriate correction is required.

7. The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Objections

8. Claims 2-3 are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim should refer to other claims in the alternative only and/or cannot depend from any other multiple dependent claims. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claims 2-3 have not been further treated on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

9. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

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10. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, line 11 “the surface roughness” has no clear antecedent basis; in line 13 “the center line average height” has no clear antecedent basis and “can be” is vague and indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention (see claims 2, 6, 10 likewise); in line 15 “the joint sections” has no clear antecedent basis; in lines 11-17 it is unclear as to what structural limitation applicants are attempting to recite; in line 16 “flat” (first occurrence) should be changed to --corrugated--.

In claim 2, it is unclear as to what structural limitation applicants are attempting to recite.

In claim 3, applicants fail to limit the variance of the foil to the “flat” before limiting the bonding of the foils (claim 1 recites alternative flat or corrugated foils) (see claims 4, 5, 6 likewise); in lines 4-6 “the entry side” and “the delivery side” have no clear antecedent basis.

In claim 4, it is unclear as to what structural limitation applicants are attempting to recite.

In claim 6, line 15 it is unclear as to what “b” stands for; in line 19 “the strip of foil” has no clear antecedent basis (see claims 7, 8, 9 likewise); in lines 19-21 it is unclear as to whether the “Ra” is the same as to the “Ra” set forth in claim 1; in line 21 it is unclear as to what is intended by “in the case of winding”; in lines 23-25 it is unclear as to what structural limitation applicants are attempting to recite.

In claims 7, 8, 9, it is unclear as to what limitation applicants are attempting to recite.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

11. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

12. Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 08-038912.

JP 08-038912 disclose a diffusion bonded metallic catalyst carrier comprising: a honeycomb body 4 composed of a piece of corrugated foil 3 made of heat resistant stainless steel containing aluminum and a piece of flat foil 2 made of stainless steel; the flat and corrugated foils being alternately wound; an outer cylinder 5 made of metal into which the honeycomb body is incorporated; the honeycomb body and the outer cylinder being integrated into one body by diffusion bonding; wherein the surface roughness of the piece of foil Ra is 0.001 to 0.2 microns.

Although JP 08-038912 is silent as to the surface roughness after diffusion bonding and whether no sintered bridges are formed, such is inherent therein since the diffusion bonding in JP 08-038912 is within the same condition, e.g. vacuum heat treatment at 1250 degrees C for 90 minutes, as that of the instant claims.

Instant claims 1-2 structurally read on the apparatus of JP 08-038912.

Allowable Subject Matter

13. Claims 3-5 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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14. Claims 6-11 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

Conclusion

15. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Nakamura et al and Yamanaka et al are cited for showing state of the art.

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hien Tran whose telephone number is 308-4253. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday from 7:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Caldarola can be reached on (703) 308-6824. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9310 for regular communications and (703) 872-9311 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 308-0661.

HT
May 5, 2003

Hien Tran

**Hien Tran
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1764**